

Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts Boyer College of Music and Dance

World Music Performance: Niall O'Leary Irish Dance Class

Friday, February 2, 2024
Arronson Recital Hall

1:00 PM – Class I
2:15 PM – Class II

About the Artists

We will be teaching the following group dances:
The two-hand reel, the Walls of Limerick, and possibly one other dance!

If anyone is interested in checking out our Irish dance classes in Philadelphia on Monday evenings, please visit our website: <http://www.nialloleary.com/school>

NIALL O'LEARY is a former All-Ireland and World Champion dancer from Dublin, Ireland. His teachers included Kevin Massey, proclaimed by Michael Flatley to be the greatest ever Irish dancer, and Rory O'Connor, the first man to do Irish dancing on radio. The Niall O'Leary School of Irish Dance has been training North American and Regional champions since 1995, and currently has locations in New York City, Philadelphia, Florida, Mississippi and Mexico. We offer classes for children and adults in Center City Philadelphia every Monday evening. O'Leary choreographed the first-ever multi-national team for the World Irish Dancing Championships (1996), featuring dancers from Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium, Australia, Botswana, USA and Ireland.

Based in New York City for over 25 years, O'Leary performs regularly as a solo artist, in duet with Darrah Carr, and with his professional company The Niall O'Leary Irish Dance Troupe. For many years he performed with Mick Moloney's Green Fields of America. He is in demand worldwide as a performer, choreographer and master instructor in Irish Dance, and in a genre that he himself has created: *Celtic Tap Improv*. He has recorded a video: *Celtic Tap Improv: Introduction, Instruction and Deconstruction*.

O'Leary is a regular feis musician, playing piano-accordion and keyboards; he also plays spoons and bodhrán. His Irish Dance Music album *Can You Irish Dance to This???* is available exclusively through his website as a digital download and also as a CD.

He served as President of the Irish Business Organization of NY Inc. (2010-11), and is founding President of the Manhattan branch of Conradh na Gaeilge. O'Leary also runs a double feis weekend on the Mississippi coast, right by the beach: October 5-6th, 2024. Dancers from all over the world are invited to attend and experience southern hospitality at its finest.

Additionally, O'Leary practices as an architect: his interactive design project *House for an Irish Dancer* will begin a community consultation phase later this year. O'Leary has been honoured by Irish America Magazine as one of the 'Top 100 Irish-Americans of the Year', and by the Irish Echo newspaper as a 'Community Champion'.

KIMBERLEE HURLEY has been dancing with the Niall O'Leary School of Irish Dance and the Niall O'Leary Irish Dance Troupe for many years. She is originally from Syracuse, upstate NY. Kim has placed in solo and team events at the Regional Irish Dance Championships, the Mid-Atlantic Oireachtas, held at the Marriott Hotel in Center City Philadelphia at Thanksgiving weekend each year.

BRENDAN CALLAHAN is an outstanding fiddle player who has played and taught at many prestigious venues across the USA.

MATTHEW WARD is an Irish-American singer/guitarist/whistle player. He performs regularly with Jack Langstaff's Celtic Revels, the Acona Reel Band, Tin Kettle, and Reel to Reel. He is also a regular at the Philadelphia Ceili Group Irish Festival.